

Application No.: 10/776390

Case No.: 59516US002

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 27 are pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for meeting with the Applicant's representative in connection with the present case and for indicating that claims 5-10, 16 and 18-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims and those of the intervening claims.

Claims 1-11 and 15 are amended. Support for these amendments can be found in the application as filed, for example, at page 13, lines 17-22, and page 16, lines 19-20.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 11, 13, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryan US 1,428,662 ("Ryan"). The Applicants respectfully submit that Ryan does not disclose all elements of these claims.

For example, amended claim 1 requires that the claimed optical system include an image-forming device. Ryan does not mention an image-forming device. Instead, it is directed to a vehicle headlight. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Ryan.

Amended claim 11 requires that all first meniscus lenses have substantially the same shape and size and all second meniscus lenses have substantially the same shape and size. Ryan does not teach or suggest at least this limitation, because one of its pairs of lenses is for illuminating the near field and the other pair of lenses is for illuminating the far field, which requires different configurations of the lenses. See Ryan, col. 2, lines 82-89. Therefore, claim 11 is also patentable over Ryan.

Claims 13 and 14 incorporate the limitations of claim 11 and, therefore, are patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, Ryan does not disclose the additional limitations of these claims.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of claim 11 and, therefore, is patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, Ryan does not show a plurality of light

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sources disposed within a non-radially symmetrical aperture. All apertures of the frame 10, in Figs. 1 and 2 of Ryan appear to be radially symmetrical, i.e., circular.

The rejection of claims 1, 11, 13, 14 and 15 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryan has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 2, 3, 4, 12 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Wagner et al. US 6,788,471 ("Wagner"). The Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are not obvious over the cited references.

First, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Ryan and Wagner. The requisite motivation to combine is not found in the references. Furthermore, the references are from completely different fields – Ryan is directed to a vehicle headlight, while Wagner is directed to a projection exposure apparatus for microlithography.

In any case, Wagner does not address deficiencies in the disclosure of Ryan, which are stated above. Wagner also does not teach or suggest an image-forming device (as required by independent claim 1) or that all first meniscus lenses have substantially the same shape and size and all second meniscus lenses have substantially the same shape and size (as required by independent claim 11). Claims 2-4, which depend on claim 1, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 12 and 17, which depend on claim 11, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

The rejection of claims 2, 3, 4, 12 and 17 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Wagner has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

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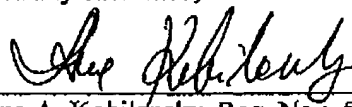
Allowance of claims 1-27, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

January 4, 2006

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